



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC GRANTS EMBARQ REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATION IN ITS LEBANON EXCHANGE

JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Public Service Commission has granted an Embarq Missouri, Inc. (Embarq) request for competitive classification for business services, other than exchange access service, in its Lebanon exchange under a state law which took effect in 2005.

Under competitive classification, Embarq will no longer be subject to price or rate regulation by the PSC for its business services in the Lebanon exchange. Embarq will be permitted to raise or lower its telephone prices at its own discretion, subject to the marketplace. The PSC will retain its ability to regulate quality of service, service termination and other billing issues.

In this case, state law requires the Commission to issue its decision within 30 days of Embarq's February 8, 2007, filing. Under the law, the 30-day criteria for determining competitive classification is based upon the existence of two other non-affiliated entities providing basic local telecommunications service. One entity may be a wireless provider, the other a wireline company that is providing local voice service using facilities that it has a partial or full ownership interest.

The Commission reviewed information filed by Embarq as well as the PSC Staff recommendation for approval. Based upon that information, the Commission found that for business customers in the Lebanon exchange, there is at least one non-affiliated entity providing local voice service in whole or in part over facilities in which it, or one of its facilities, has an ownership interest. In addition, for business customers in the Lebanon exchange, there is at least one non-affiliated wireless carrier providing basic local telecommunications services. "Therefore, the Commission concludes that Embarq's application for competitive classification of its business services, other than exchange access services, in the Lebanon exchange should be granted," the Commission said.